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Message Text

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54
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 EB-11 AID-20 PC-15 /173 W
---------- 003038
R 021327Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6241
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1397

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT BB
SUBJ: OPPOSITION LEADER ATTACKS BARROW GOVERNMENT

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1380

1. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION J. M. G. ADAMS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 29 AT WHICH HE ATTACKED GOVERNMENT AND REFUTED STATEMENTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER BARROW AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 26 (REFTEL). REFERRING TO BARROW'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD BE TAKING "SABBATICAL" AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ADAMS SAID THAT PROBLEMS FACING BARBADOS ARE TOO IMPORTANT FOR PRIME MINISTER TO "TURN HIS BACK" AND GO AND WORK AS VISITING PROFESSOR "AT UNDISCLOSED SALARY," ACCORDING TO ADVOCATE NEWS SEPTEMBER 30. ADAMS SAID ACTING PRIME MINISTER, EDWY TALMA, WAS MOVING TOWARDS WELL EARNED RETIREMENT AND THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH DYNAMIC DECISION MAKING IN BARROW'S ABSENCE.

2. COMMENTING ON BARROW'S REMARKS ABOUT BARBADIAN ECONOMY, ADAMS IS QUOTED AS SAYING "WE IN THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY CANNOT BELIEVE FOR ONE MOMENT, AND CAN NEVER ACCEPT THE IMPRESSION WHICH WAS SOUGHT TO BE GIVEN, THAT ALL IS WELL IN
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BARBADOS AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN

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BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF CARETAKERS...DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS OF THIS YEAR." ADAMS ADDED THAT ALL COULD NEVER BE WELL IN A COUNTRY WHERE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS AT STANDSTILL, WHERE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAS STILL LAGGING AND WHERE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME WAS MARKING TIME. HE SAID COST OF LIVING WAS STILL SKYROCKETING AND REMARKED THAT SOME CIVIL SERVANTS ARE COMPLAINING THAT THEY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER TO RECEIVE THEIR SALARIES FOR SEPTEMBER. CRITICIZING BARBADOS' PUBLIC HELATH SERVICE, ADAMS SAID "WE ARE COMMITTED TO EXTENDING THE HEALTH SERVICE IN BARBADOS TO THE POINT WHERE THERE WILL BE A FREE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE." HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT WHILE BARROW TOUTED BARBADOS' NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE PLAN HAD NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (IN RECESS UNTIL OCTOBER 16).

3. COMMENTING ON RESIGNATION OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER DACOSTA EDWARDS, ADAMS SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT STATEMENT THAT EDWARDS HAD RESIGNED "ENTIRELY VOLUNTARILY." HE DESCRIBED EDWARDS' RESIGNATION AS "THE FIRST DISORDER OR DISCORD THAT WE WILL SEE FROM THE GOVERNMENT." HE NOTED THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD BEEN CALLING FOR EDWARDS' RESIGNATION SINCE 1969.
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